

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for efficient link recovery between first and second Fibre Channel ports communicating by the transport of GFP-encapsulated Fibre Channel client data frames across a SONET/SDH transport network, said first Fibre Channel port connected to said SONET/SDH transport network through a first transport interface and said second Fibre Channel port connected to said SONET/SDH transport network through a second transport interface, the method comprising:

polling a GFP synchronization status from said first transport interface to determine whether a GFP loss of synchronization has occurred at said first transport interface, wherein a GFP loss of synchronization signifies ~~detecting~~ an interruption in said SONET/SDH transport network responsive to a GFP loss of synchronization; and

transmitting a stream of Ordered Sets ~~indicative of non-operation~~ from said first transport interface to said first Fibre Channel port so that said first Fibre Channel port performs in response to detecting a GFP loss of synchronization, the stream of Ordered Sets indicating to said first Fibre Channel port an interruption in said SONET/SDH transport network between said first and second transport interfaces; and

performing link initialization and buffer credit recovery procedures in the first Fibre Channel port in response to receiving the stream of Ordered Sets from the first transport interface to recover the link with said second Fibre Channel port.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 [[2]] wherein a GFP loss of synchronization is determined to have occurred in response to the first transport interface ~~said detecting step comprises~~ receiving a multibit error indication in CHEC bits.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 [[2]] wherein said polling step is performed periodically.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said stream of Ordered Sets comprises a stream of Fibre Channel Not Operational Ordered Sets.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising: determining that said SONET/SDH transport network has regained synchronization; and subsequently terminating transmission of said stream of Ordered Set signals from the first transport interface to said first Fibre Channel port.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6 further comprising: waiting a predetermined amount of time before terminating transmission of said stream of Ordered Set signals.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7 [[6]] wherein said predetermined amount of time comprises 20 milliseconds.

9. (Currently Amended) In a network system for transporting GFP-encapsulated Fibre Channel frames across a SONET/SDH transport network between first and second Fibre Channel ports, said first Fibre Channel port connected to said SONET/SDH transport network through a first transport interface and said second Fibre Channel port connected to said SONET/SDH transport network through a second transport interface, said first transport interface comprising:

at least one integrated circuit configured to poll a GFP synchronization status to determine whether a GFP loss of synchronization has occurred, wherein a GFP loss of synchronization signifies ~~adapted to detect~~ an interruption in said SONET/SDH transport network ~~responsive to GFP out of synchronization signals~~; and to transmit a stream of Ordered Sets ~~indicative of non-operation~~ to said first Fibre Channel port in response to detecting a GFP loss of synchronization, the stream of Ordered Sets indicating to said first Fibre Channel port an

interruption in said SONET/SDH transport network between said first and second transport interfaces and causing ~~so that~~ said first Fibre Channel port to perform[[s]] link initialization and buffer credit recovery procedures to recover the link with said second Fibre Channel port.

10. (Original) The first transport interface of claim 9 wherein said at least one integrated circuit is adapted to receive a multibit error indication in CHEC bits to detect said interruption in said SONET/SDH transport network.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) The first transport interface of claim 9 [[11]] wherein said at least one integrated circuit is adapted to poll periodically.

13. (Currently Amended) The first transport interface of claim 9 wherein said stream of Ordered Sets comprises a stream of Fibre Channel Not Operational Ordered Sets.

14. (Currently Amended) The first transport interface of claim 9 wherein said at least one integrated circuit is further adapted to determine that said SONET/SDH transport network has regained synchronization; and to subsequently terminate transmission of said stream of Ordered Sets to said first Fibre Channel port ~~NOS signals~~.

15. (Currently Amended) The first transport interface of claim 14 wherein said at least one integrated circuit is further adapted to wait a predetermined amount of time before terminating transmission of said stream of Ordered Sets to said first Fibre Channel port ~~NOS signals~~.

16. (Currently Amended) The first transport interface of claim 15 ~~[[14]]~~ wherein said predetermined amount of time comprises 20 milliseconds.

17. (Currently Amended) In a network system for transporting GFP-encapsulated Fibre Channel frames across a SONET/SDH transport network between first and second Fibre Channel ports, said first Fibre Channel port connected to said SONET/SDH transport network through a first transport interface and said second Fibre Channel port connected to said SONET/SDH transport network through a second transport interface, said first transport interface comprising:

means for polling a GFP synchronization status to determine whether a GFP loss of synchronization has occurred, wherein a GFP loss of synchronization signifies ~~detecting~~ an interruption in said SONET/SDH transport network ~~responsive to GFP out-of-synchronization signals~~; and

means for transmitting a stream of Ordered Sets indicative of non-operation to said first Fibre Channel port in response to detecting a GFP loss of synchronization, the stream of Ordered Sets indicating to said first Fibre Channel port an interruption in said SONET/SDH transport network between said first and second transport interfaces and causing so that said first Fibre Channel port to perform link initialization and buffer credit recovery procedures to recover the link with said second Fibre Channel port.

18. (Currently Amended) The first transport interface of claim 17 wherein said ~~detecting~~ ~~means has~~ means for polling includes means for receiving a multibit error indication in CHEC bits to detect said interruption in said SONET/SDH transport network.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently Amended) The first transport interface of claim 17 ~~[[19]]~~ wherein said ~~polling~~ means for polling operates periodically.

21. (Currently Amended) The first transport interface of claim 17 wherein said stream of Ordered Sets comprises a stream of Fibre Channel Not Operational Ordered Sets.

22. (Currently Amended) The first transport interface of claim 17 further comprising: means for determining that said SONET/SDH transport network has regained synchronization; and means for subsequently terminating transmission of said stream of Ordered Sets to said first Fibre Channel port ~~NOS signals~~.

23. (Currently Amended) The first transport interface of claim 22 wherein said subsequently terminating means waits a predetermined amount of time before terminating transmission of said stream of Ordered Sets to said first Fibre Channel port ~~NOS signals~~.

24. (Original) The first transport interface of claim 23 wherein said predetermined amount of time comprises 20 milliseconds.